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AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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treatment of the rheumatic diseases as well as rehabilitation of those who suffer from them;

2. INVITES Member States to encourage programmes of research, prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation and social welfare in regard to rheumatic diseases as well as information campaigns dealing with those diseases; and

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to assist Member States with their programmes; and
- (2) to report to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly on the progress made in this field.

May 1975 226, 32

WHA29.66 The Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the Director-General's report on rheumatic diseases;

Taking into account the importance of such diseases as a cause of long-term disablement and their serious socioeconomic consequences:

1. IS OF THE OPINION that the prevention and control of rheumatic diseases should constitute an integral part of national health programmes, and that greater efforts are required to provide appropriate services within those programmes;

2. NOTES with satisfaction the work of the International League against Rheumatism in having 1977 designated as World Rheumatism Year, which will provide an opportunity for close cooperation between the various organizations concerned with the fight against rheumatic diseases;

3. RECOMMENDS that the World Health Organization should continue to assist governments, on their request, in promoting services for the prevention and control of rheumatic diseases, research in this field, and the training of rheumatologists.

May 1976 233, 42

Diabetes Mellitus

REPORTS OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE ON DIABETES MELLITUS

	Published in Technical Report Series No.	Relevant decision
Second report	646	EB47.2 (1981)

1.16.19 CONTROL OF SMOKING

For previous resolutions,
see Volume I, page 110.

See also under Education for Health, resolution WHA27.28, page 62 of this volume.

EB53.R31 The Executive Board,

Recalling resolutions WHA23.32 and WHA24.48 of the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth World Health Assemblies;

Re-emphasizing the serious effects of smoking in promoting the development of such pulmonary and cardiac diseases as bronchopulmonary cancer, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and ischaemic heart disease and in aggravating the course of other diseases, to the detriment of the health and the economy of countries;

Considering that the study of the problem of tobacco smoking involves research, therapeutic, statistical, educational, legal, economic and other aspects needing periodic review and that it therefore requires a multidisciplinary approach;

Convinced that many countries would benefit from such study in dealing with the problem nationally,

REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to convene as soon as possible an expert committee to study the problem of tobacco smoking in all its aspects;

(2) to keep Member States and interested organizations informed of the results of studies in this field.

Jan. 1974 215, 25

WHA29.55 The Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions EB45.R9, WHA23.32, EB47.R42 and WHA24.48 concerning the health hazards of smoking and ways towards its limitation;

Noting with satisfaction that the recent WHO Expert Committee report on smoking and its effects on health, prepared in accordance with resolution EB53.R31 and reviewed favourably by the Executive Board at its fifty-seventh session, provides a thorough and authoritative summary of current knowledge in the field and contains a number of important recommendations for WHO and the Member States;

Considering that the results of the Third World Conference on Smoking and Health, held in New York in June 1975, gave further support to the evidence and proposals presented by the WHO Expert Committee;

Recognizing the indisputable scientific evidence showing that tobacco smoking is a major cause of chronic bronchitis, emphysema and lung cancer as well as a major risk factor for myocardial infarction, certain pregnancy-related and neonatal disorders and a number of other serious health problems, and also has harmful effects on those who are involuntarily exposed to tobacco smoke;

Seriously concerned about the alarming worldwide trends in smoking-related mortality and morbidity and the rapidly increasing consumption of tobacco, especially in cigarettes, in countries in which it was not previously widespread, and about the growing number of young people and women who are now smoking;

Recognizing that an effective strategy to tackle the problem requires a concerted effort consisting of educational, restrictive and legislative measures, combined with coherent taxation and price policies, and supported by continuous research and evaluation on a multidisciplinary basis;

Noting that very few countries have thus far taken effective steps to combat smoking;

Believing that no organization devoted to the promotion of health can be indifferent in this matter, and that WHO has an important role to play in promoting effective policies against smoking, as envisaged in the Sixth General Programme of Work of WHO covering the period 1978-1983;

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1. URGES governments of Member States to identify the actual or anticipated health problems associated with smoking in their countries;

2. RECOMMENDS governments of Member States:

(1) to create and to develop effective machinery to coordinate and supervise programmes for control and prevention of smoking on a planned, continuous and long-term basis;

(2) to strengthen health education concerning smoking, as a part of general health education and through close collaboration with health and school authorities, mass media, voluntary organizations, employers' and employees' organizations and other relevant agencies, taking into account the different needs of various target groups, laying emphasis on the positive aspects of non-smoking, and supporting individuals wishing to stop smoking;

(3) to consider steps which can be taken towards ensuring that non-smokers receive protection, to which they are entitled, from an environment polluted by tobacco smoke;

(4) to give serious consideration to the legislative and other measures suggested by the WHO Expert Committee in its recent report on smoking and its effects on health;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue, and intensify, WHO's antismoking activities;

(2) to collate and disseminate information on smoking habits, smoking-related health problems and smoking control activities in Member States;

(3) to give assistance and encouragement to research in smoking and health, with particular emphasis on studies that are directly relevant to the assessment and improvement of the effectiveness of antismoking activities;

(4) to promote the standardization of:

(a) definitions, measurement methods and statistics concerning smoking behaviour, tobacco consumption and the occurrence of smoking-related morbidity and mortality;

(b) laboratory techniques used for the quantitative analysis of the harmful substances in tobacco products;

(5) to give assistance, upon request, to governments in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of their policies and programmes to combat smoking;

(6) to continue, in cooperation with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and appropriate nongovernmental organizations, to make all efforts deemed necessary to reduce smoking; and particularly to work out with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with the United Nations a joint strategy for crop diversification in tobacco-growing areas with a view to avoiding the anticipated economic consequences of reducing tobacco consumption in the world as a whole for public health reasons;

(7) to convene an expert committee in 1977 or 1978 to review and evaluate the world situation in regard to smoking control;

(8) to report to a future Health Assembly on developments in this field.

May 1976 233, 35

* WHO Technical Report Series, No. 568, 1975

WHA31.56 The Thirty-first World Health Assembly.

Recalling resolutions EB45.R9, WHA23.32, EB47.R42, WHA24.48, EB53.R31 and WHA29.55 concerning the health hazards of tobacco smoking and ways towards its limitation;

Recognizing the increasing and indisputable scientific evidence showing that tobacco smoking is a major cause of chronic bronchitis, emphysema and lung cancer, as well as a major risk factor for myocardial infarction, certain pregnancy-related and neonatal disorders and a number of other serious health problems, and that it also has harmful effects on those who are involuntarily exposed to tobacco smoke;

Seriously concerned at the alarming increase in production and consumption of cigarettes during the last two decades in some of the countries, particularly developing countries, in which it was previously not widespread, and at the extensive promotional drive for the sale of cigarettes being carried out on radio and television, in newspapers and other news media, and through association with sporting and cultural events, often inducing young people to smoke tobacco;

Noting that few countries have so far taken comprehensive action to effectively combat smoking through educational, restrictive and legislative measures for the control of publicity and advertisements in the news media, combined with coherent taxation and price policies for tobacco cultivation and cigarette production;

Believing that WHO has an important role in promoting effective policies against smoking, as envisaged in the Sixth General Programme of Work covering the period 1978-1983 inclusive;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to strengthen health education programmes concerning tobacco smoking as a part of general education, through close collaboration among health and education authorities and other relevant agencies, taking into account the different needs of the various target groups;

(2) to adopt comprehensive measures to control tobacco smoking, *inter alia* by providing for increased taxation on the sale of cigarettes and restricting as far as possible all forms of publicity for promotion of smoking;

(3) to protect the rights of non-smokers to enjoy an atmosphere unpolluted by tobacco smoke;

(4) to seek economically sound alternative undertakings to replace tobacco growing and processing, where appropriate;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue to intensify WHO's activities in connexion with control of tobacco smoking;

(2) to collaborate with Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies and appropriate nongovernmental organizations as required, in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes to combat smoking, including studying possibilities for crop diversification in tobacco-growing areas;

(3) to cooperate with Member States upon request in developing measures for the control of publicity with regard to smoking through the news media, especially newspapers, radio and television;

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(4) to give urgent consideration to having non-smoking as a theme for World Health Day as soon as possible, and in this and other ways to give maximum publicity to an anti-smoking campaign;

(5) to encourage research as to the causes of tobacco smoking;

(6) to report on progress in this field not later than the Thirty-third World Health Assembly.

May 1978 247, 41

WHA33.35¹ The Thirty-third World Health Assembly.

Recalling resolutions EB45.R9, WHA23.32, EB47.R42, WHA24.48, EB53.R31, WHA29.55, and WHA31.56 concerning the health hazards of tobacco smoking and WHO's role in the limitation of this harmful habit;

Noting the report of the WHO Expert Committee on Smoking Control;²

Reiterating its firm conviction that the effect of tobacco smoking is now a major public health problem in all industrialized countries and in many developing countries and that it will become so in the near future in all other developing countries unless action is taken now;

Mindful of the ill-effects of smoking, particularly on risk groups such as pregnant women, lactating mothers and children;

Seriously concerned about the aggressive promotional drives for the sale of cigarettes that occur in developing as well as developed countries, thus inducing the new generations to take up the habit of smoking;

Alarmed by the fact that advertising practices using psychological means in both industrialized and developing countries have the effect of inducing and perpetuating smoking habits, especially among youth;

Encouraged by the existence of total bans, restrictions or limitations on tobacco advertising in several countries;

Noting encouraging signs of expanded national activities and of increasing public awareness of the harmful health effects of cigarette smoking in many countries, partly as a result of WHO's efforts and of this year's World Health Day on "Smoking or health: the choice is yours";

Realizing that national and international strategies to combat the spreading of the habit of smoking must be carried out on a continuous, long-term basis;

Believing that WHO has an essential role to play in promoting effective smoking control policies;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to strengthen, and to initiate where lacking, the smoking control strategies outlined in the above-mentioned resolutions,

laying special emphasis on educational approaches, particularly with respect to youth, and on measures to ban, restrict or limit advertising of tobacco products;

(2) to support WHO's action in the field of smoking and health;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to further develop an effective WHO action programme on smoking and health, clearly defining lines of responsibility and priority areas, and taking into account the multidisciplinary and intersectoral character of the relationship between smoking and health;

(2) to ensure that WHO plays a leading role in coordinating international activities and to strengthen collaboration with other United Nations agencies and with relevant non-governmental organizations, and, particularly, to pursue the study on crop diversification in tobacco-growing areas in collaboration with FAO;

(3) to collaborate with Member States in their efforts to reduce smoking;

(4) to consider problems caused by the marketing and consumption of tobacco, particularly in developing countries;

(5) to mobilize financial and other resources for the implementation of the programme;

(6) to report on progress of this programme to the Thirty-fifth World Health Assembly.

May 1980 WHA33/1980/REC/1, 36

¹ See document WHA33/1980/RI-C/1, p. 128.

² WHO Technical Report Series, No. 636, 1979.

EB69.R18 The Executive Board.

Stressing the key role of cigarette smoking in the causation of lung cancer;

1. COMMENDS the Scottish association football team for its participation as a "non-smoking" team in the 1982 World Cup competition, thus setting an excellent example to all participants in sport and their supporters;

2. HOPES that other teams may wish to emulate this initiative;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to take appropriate action to support this important health education opportunity in relation to the World Cup competition.

Jan. 1982 EB69/1982/REC/1, 16

REPORTS OF EXPERT COMMITTEES

	Published in Technical Report Series No.	Relevant resolution or decision
Smoking and its effects on health	568	EB57.R3 (1976)
Smoking control (Controlling the smoking epidemic)	636	EB69.R1 (1980)

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